

GAINES HARDY ROBERTS HOUSE
NEW BURG (TWO MILES EAST) WARRICK Co. INDIANA.

H.A.B.S. No. 24-13.
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA.
DISTRICT No 24.
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY.
HERBERT FOLTZ, DISTRICT OFFICER.
333 N. PENN. ST. INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

ROBERTS HOUSE
NEWBURG - INDIANA

HABS NO.24-13

The following information is obtained from a clipping from the Evansville Courier, July 1910, and from the abstract of title which dates back to July 2, 1818, when the Government made the grant to Frederick C. Graf, who sold same to Gaines Hardy Roberts, the builder, March 27, 1832.

The Roberts House, or the "Old Stone House" as it is known, was built in 1839 by Gaines Hardy Roberts. It stands on an elevation overlooking the Ohio River, two miles east of Newburg, Indiana, on the Wonderland Route. It commands a view of the river for 25 miles, the longest straight stretch of the river between Cincinnati, Ohio, and Cairo, Illinois.

It stands on Indian Hill, the site of an Indian stockade built in 1810. The stockade harbored eight families during Indian uprisings. Probably many Indian battles were fought in this vicinity, for many arrow heads and occasionally stone hatchets are found there.

The contractor was John Meinhardt, a German, just over from the Fatherland. The walls are entirely of sandstone and plastered on the inside. The wall thicknesses are, 36" to grade, 32" from grade to 1st floor, 24" to 2nd floor and 18" from 2nd floor to roof. The sashes are of the double hung type and set directly into the stone jambs, though only the lower sash operates. All exterior doors are fastened directly to the stone jambs, with wrought iron eye bolt hinges.

The stone of the front elevation is hand chiseled and laid up with a "V" joint. The other elevations are laid up at random with large stones forming irregular quoins at all corners. The interior partitions are 2x4 studs, lathed and plastered. The plan is the usual center hall type with a stair leading to basement and one to the 2nd floor. On one side

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of hall on the 1st floor is the dining room, and kitchen with Dutch oven fireplace, and on the other side the parlor and sitting room, and on the 2nd floor, four bed rooms. Every room has a fireplace.

The stone was hauled in ox-carts from two miles east along the river. It took three years to entirely complete the residence. It was at that time the most magnificent home in Southern Indiana and many families for miles around came to enjoy the hospitality of the household.

At the death of Rufus Roberts, the son of the builder, the house was sold to Union Bethel, father of Union Bethel, former president of the American Bell Telephone Company. At the death of the senior Mr. Bethel the house was left vacant for more than twenty years. In 1898 Dr. Wesley Wilson bought the place and farmed about 300 acres in the vicinity. He maintained ownership until 1919 when Dr. Isaac C. Hollinger and Cora D. Hollinger purchased it and established a sanitarium for narcotic patients. In 1931 T. J. Morton purchased the site, and while adding bathrooms on the 1st and 2nd floors, a kitchen wing in the rear and redecorating throughout, he made very few minor structural changes to the original unit.

(Signed)

Earl O. Warweg
Squad Leader

April 23, 1934

(Approved)

Herbert A. Felt
DISTRICT OFFICER